

## Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 NIC-01 SAJ-01

/096 W

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R 211005Z FEB 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1665

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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EO 11652: NA DECON 12/31/76

TAGS: PINT IZ

SUBJ: ISLAMIC CONFERENCE CALLS FOR HOLY WAR, ARAB UNITY

REF: BAGHDAD 156, 120

1. SUMMARY: RECENTLY CONCLUDED INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF MUSLIM DIVINES SHOWS BAATH PARTY CONTINUING ITS NOT ALWAYS GRACEFUL EFFORTS ESTABLISH ITSELF IN INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP ROLE. CONFERENCE MIGHT BE REGARDED AS ATTEMPT BY SECULAR, ARAB NATIONALIST BAATH PARTY TO GO IN DOOR OF MODERATE PAN-MUSLIM CONCERN WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS IN ORDER TO COME OUT FAMILIAR DOOR OF UNDV ARAB OPPOSITION TO ISRAEL. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIEDZC 150 MUSLIM THEOLOGIANS AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS FROM 44 LANDS ATTENDED CONFERENCE IN BAGHDAD  
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FEB 13-19. AT CONCLUSION ISSUED 14 POINT COMMUNIQUE

WITH FOLLOWING HIGHLIGHTS: (A) SUPPORTED JIHAD (HOLY WAR) TO RECOVER PALESTINE AND JERUSALEM; (B) GOVTS AND PEOPLE OF MUSLIM AND ARAB WORLD URGED TO GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO PALESTINE COMMANDO MOVEMENT, RALLY BEHIND PLO, SEE TO IT THAT COMMANDOS AND REGULAR ARMED FORCES IN "FRONT LINE" COUNTRIES WORK TOGETHER, PROVIDE MORE SUPPORT FOR MILITARY CONFRONTATION IN SOUTH LEBANON; (C) CALLED UPON ISLAMIC COUNTRIES STILL HAVING DIPLOMATIC OR ECONOMIC TIES WITH ISRAEL TO BREAK THEM - AS AN ISLAMIC DUTY; (C) APPEALED TO ALL MUSLIM STATES TO SUBMERGE THEIR DIFFERENCES, SETTLE DISPUTES PEACEFULLY; (E) ENDORSED ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCES AS EXCELLENT TECHNIQUE TO CEMENT BOND OF UNION BETWEEN ARAB LANDS; (F) APPEALED TO ALL MUSLIM GOVTS AND PEOPLES TO "DISPLAY HIGHER DEGREE OF ADHERENCE TO THE RIGHTEOUS LAWS OF ISLAM AS AN IDEOLOGY, A SYSTEM AND A WAY OF CONDUCT SO AS TO MAKE MUSLIM SOCIETY MORE COMMITTED TO HUMAN VALUES AND VIRTUES AND STRONGER IN THE FIELD OF STRUGGLE"; (G) CALLED FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE REVOLUTION IN "ARAB AND ISLAMIC LAND OF ERITREA"; (H) INVITED GOVT OF PHILIPPINES TO RESTORE CIVIL RIGHTS TO MUSLIM CITIZENS; AND (I) CALLED FOR EFFORTS TO SET UP A WORLD-WIDE LEAGUE OF MUSLIM ULEMA (DIVINES) TO TACKLE ARAB AND ISLAMIC ISSUES.

3. PRESS NOTICES PERMIT IDENTIFICATION OF FOL LANDS OR AREAS (AMONG THE 44 SAID TO BE REPRESENTED): AFGHANISTAN, BAHRAIN, BANLADESH, BULGARIA, CHAD, EGYPT, KUWAIT, KENYA, INDIA, LEBANON, LIBYA, JORDAN, INDONESIA, MURITANIA, PALESTINE, PAKISTAN, PHILLIPPINES, SOMALIA, SRI LANKA, SYRIA, USSR, THAILAND, USE, YEMEN (ADEN), YEMEN (SANAA), YUGOSLAVIA.

4. GOI PULLED OUT ALL STOPS ON HIGHLIGHTING CONFERENCE. MEMBERS WERE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT BAKR, ADDRESSED BY RCC VICE CHAIRMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN AND GIVEN AMPLE MEDIA ATTENTION.

5. IN HIS BRIEF SPEECH SADDAM HUSSEIN BEGAN BY QUOTING KORAN; WENT ON TO DRAW LESSONS IN REGARD TO PRESENT CONFRONTATION WITH ISRAEL WITH MOHAMMED'S PEACE TREATY WITH INFIDELS OF MECCA IN 630 AD; CALLED FOR ARAB AND MUSLIM UNITY IN SEEKING TO RECOVER HOLY LAND. CONCLUDED "IN OUR OPINION, ONE WHO HAMPERS AN ARAB MUSLIM STATE FROM DISCHARGING ITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SACRED DUTY TOWARD THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE IS AS GOOD AS BREAKING UP A BATTLE FOUGHT IN DEFENSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS." END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN LOU: USINT IS TOLD THAT BAGHDAD COFFEE HOUSES AND SOIREES OF THE INTELLECTUALS ARE BUZZING ABOUT THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AND THE EXTRAORDINARY INVOLVEMENT OF THE RATIONALIST, AT HEART, SECULAR BAATH PARTY LEADERSHIP.

THE CONFERENCE COINCIDED WITH A HIGHLY PUBLICIZED VISIT OF MICHEL AFLAQ, SEC GEN OF THE BAATH PARTY. AND COFFEEHOUSE RUMORS HAD IT THAT THIS WELL KNOWN LEBANESE CHRISTIAN FIGURE WAS SOON TO BE NAMED PRESIDENT OF IRAQ --AFTER THE IMMINENT DEPARTURE BY RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT BAKR. ONE EXTRAORDINARY HYPOTHESIS, ENJOYING SOME LOCAL POPULARITY, IS THAT BAATH PARTY ENDORSEMENT AND GUIDANCE OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE WAS DESIGNED TO REASSURE THE DEVOUT MASSES OF IRAQ THAT THE PARTY IS INDEED ISLAMIC IN SPIRIT.

6. USINT UNABLE TO GUESS WEIGHT INDIVIDUAL MUSLIM DIVINES CARRY IN THEIR OWN LANDS. CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS, ON ONE HAND, SHOW HEAVY BAATH INFLUENCE BUT, ON OTHER HAND, ALSO REPRESENT DOCTRINAL COMPROMISES IN INTEREST OF ENLISTING BROADER, NON-ARAB MUSLIM SUPPORT FOR THE STRUGGLE AGAINST ISRAEL.

7. AS REPORTED REFTELS, APPEARS THAT GOI SOMEWHAT HEAVY-HANDEDLY CASTING ABOUT FOR NEW THEMES TO GIVE IT MORE CREDIBILITY AS AN IDEOLOGICAL HEAVYWEIGHT IN ARAB AND MUSLIM CIRCLES. IN PROCESS IS APPARENTLY BEGINNING TO LEARN ART OF DOCTRINAL COMPROMISE. IN PROCESS WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY FIND ITSELF BEING SHAPED ALONG MORE MORE MODERATE LINES.  
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